

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-38 were rejected. Claims 1, 19 and 23 have been amended.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11-15, 19-24, 27, 30-32, 34, and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,547,664 (Saunders). The Examiner also rejected claims 8, 10, 16-18, 25, 26, 28, 29, 33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders in view of various other references. Claims 1, 19, and 23 have been amended and the rejections are believed overcome.

As discussed in previous responses, Saunders describes a cashless gaming system in which printed tickets are employed having coded values, e.g., bar codes, printed thereon indicating the ticket value. The portion of the specification beginning at column 7, line 34, specifically identifies the kind of information which may be encoded on such a ticket including the cash-in value, the player name or ID, a PIN number, and a ticket number (see lines 44-52). At no place in the reference is there described a promotional device “having information encoded therein which the *gaming machine* is operable to employ to *identify the specific game*.” Neither does Saunders teach that the *gaming machine* is operable to “limit use of the game-specific credit” to a game which is identified in the encoded information.

As described, for example, on page 14 of the present application, the “game-specific” nature of the credit claimed is enabled by the fact that the game to which use of the credit is limited is identified in the information encoded on the promotional device, i.e., identified in such a manner that it may be *employed by the gaming machine* “to identify the specific game and limit the use of the game-specific credit thereto.”

Given the generic nature of the credit described in Saunders, the information encoded on the ticket clearly does not identify a specific game in a form which is discernible to a gaming machine. That is, as pointed out in the previous response, it is clear from Saunders that the

coded value on the printed tickets may be used indiscriminately on other gaming machines without regard to specific gaming applications as long as the card still has a cash-in value. Thus, Saunders does not contemplate encoding information which specifically identifies the specific game for which its ticket value may be used. Therefore, the information encoded on Saunderson's tickets cannot be *used by a gaming machine* in the manner described and claimed in the present application. The rejection of claim 1 over Saunders is therefore believed overcome.

The gaming machine and the method for operating a gaming machine of claims 19 and 23 have also been amended to more clearly recite that the specific game to which the credit associated with the promotional device is to be limited is identified by "with reference to encoded information" on the promotional device, and that the use of the credit is limited to "*only* the specific game" so identified. The rejection of these claims is therefore believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1. In addition, the rejection of dependent claims 2-18, 20-22, and 24-37 are also believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20-22, 23-25, 27 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,080,364 (Seidman). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Seidman describes a promotional game in which prizes are automatically awarded upon presentation of tokens bearing certain codes (Abstract). When a patron presents a token, the system tests for the presence of predetermined winning codes, each of which is associated with a separate prize pool (col. 5, lines 31-36). Patrons presenting tokens with such winning codes may be randomly assigned a prize (Summary).

Seidman does not teach encoded information on its tokens which may be used by a gaming machine "to identify a specific game" or to "limit use of game-specific credit" to the game identified. Therefore, it cannot be said to anticipate any of claims 1-37.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Villeneuve', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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